United Nations S/2011/254

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 18 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China in March 2011 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Li** Baodong
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

11-30432 (E) 060611

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 18 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the People's Republic of China (March 2011)

Introduction

Under the presidency of China in March 2011, the Security Council considered a wide range of issues. The Council held 32 meetings, including 16 consultations, 8 briefings, one open debate, one debate and one private meeting. One informal interactive dialogue was also convened. The Council adopted five resolutions and one presidential statement, and issued three statements to the press.

The Council observed minutes of silence at the start of its meeting on 16 March in tribute to the loss of lives in the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on 11 March.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 3 March, in consultations of the whole, Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, briefed the Council on the latest development in Côte d'Ivoire. Council members issued a statement to the press (SC/10191), in which they expressed their deep concern about the recent escalation of violence in Côte d'Ivoire, especially Abidjan, following the reported attacks on civilians, including women. Council members expressed their concern about the risk of insurgence of civil war and urged all parties to show utmost restraint to prevent it and to resolve their differences peacefully. Council members also urged the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), while impartially implementing its mandate, to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate, in particular to protect the civilians and to continue to monitor the continued compliance by all parties with the ceasefire agreement of 3 May 2003. Council members also reiterated their support for the African Union and the Economic Community of Western African States in their efforts to solve the conflict and underscored their desire that the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire be resolved peacefully.

On 11 March, Council members issued a statement to the press (SC/10196) welcoming the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, adopted at its 265th meeting on 10 March 2011 in Addis Ababa, and calling on all parties to comply immediately with it.

On 18 March, the President of the Council delivered remarks to the press, expressing the indignation of Council members at UNOCI reports of brutal attacks against unarmed civilians allegedly committed by the Ivorian Defence and Security Forces at a market in Abobo, Abidjan, on 17 March and condemning violence committed by an Ivorian party against unarmed civilians.

On 25 March, the Security Council held a public meeting and heard a briefing by Atul Khare, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Ambassador Youssoufou Bamba, Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, also made a statement. In the consultations of the whole that followed, Council members exchanged views on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

On 30 March, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1975 (2011). The representatives of Brazil, China, Colombia, Gabon, Germany, India, Nigeria, South Africa, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland spoke after the vote. Ambassador Youssoufou Bamba, Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, also made a statement.

Liberia

On 3 March, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1971 (2011), by which it decided to discontinue the authorization granted in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1626 (2005) and requested the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to withdraw, by 7 March, the military personnel providing security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

On 16 March, the Security Council was briefed by Ellen Margrethe Løj, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, on the work of UNMIL. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, Permanent Representative of Jordan and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission Liberia configuration, and Ambassador Marjon V. Kamara, Permanent Representative of Liberia, also made statements. In the consultations of the whole that followed, Council members welcomed the progress made by Liberia, especially in preparation for 2011 elections, acknowledged the challenges confronting Liberia in various areas and affirmed the necessity of continued United Nations engagement in Liberia. Council members also expressed their concern about the impact of refugee flow to Liberia caused by the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

Libya

On 14 March, the Security Council was briefed in consultations by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, on the situation in Libya. Council members had intensive discussions and agreed to continue to follow the situation on the ground closely.

On 15 March, the Council held consultations on the situation in Libya.

On 16 March, Council members exchanged views in consultations on the draft resolution co-authored by France, Lebanon and the United Kingdom on the situation in Libya.

On 17 March, the Council adopted resolution 1973 (2011) by a vote of 10 in favour to none against, with 5 abstentions. Alain Juppé, Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, introduced the draft resolution before the vote. The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United States of America and the United Kingdom spoke after the vote.

On 21 March, Council members exchanged views regarding the request to convene an emergency meeting of the Council as contained in the letter dated 19 March from Musa M. Abdussalam Kousa, the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/161).

On 24 March, in a public meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, briefed the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1973 (2011) concerning Libya. In the consultations that followed, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on his latest trip to the Middle East, Northern African and the Central American regions. Council members exchanged views on the Secretary-General's trip and the situation in Libya.

On 28 March, in a public meeting, Ambassador José Filipe Moraes Cabral, Permanent Representative of Portugal and Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, briefed the Security Council on the work of the Committee. In consultations of the whole that followed, Council members exchanged views on the work of the 1970 (2011) Committee.

Sierra Leone

On 24 March, the Security Council was briefed in a public meeting by Michael von der Shulenburg, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and Ambassador John McNee, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission Sierra Leone Country Configuration and Permanent Representative of Canada. The Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, Joseph Dauda, participated in the meeting and delivered a statement.

In the consultations that followed, Council members commended the remarkable progress made in Sierra Leone in the past years and expressed their continued support to Sierra Leone in its efforts towards achieving lasting peace, stability and development. Council members noted the challenges confronting Sierra Leone, including youth employment, illicit drug trafficking and national capacity-building, and called upon the international community to continue to render support and assistance to Sierra Leone. Council members stressed the importance of holding peaceful, free and fair elections in Sierra Leone in 2012 and called on all parties in the country to work together to create favourable conditions for the upcoming elections. Council members expressed their support for the Peacebuilding Commission and UNIPSIL for their work in Sierra Leone.

Somalia

On 10 March, the Security Council held an open debate entitled "The situation in Somalia: comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia". The Council was briefed by the Secretary-General, Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and Ambassador Boubacar G. Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union for Somalia. Representatives of around 40 countries, including Mr. Henry Bellingham MP, the Minister for Africa of the United Kingdom, addressed the Council during the open debate.

The Secretary-General updated the Council with regard to the political, security and humanitarian situation in Somalia, the latest developments on piracy off the coast of Somalia and the efforts of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Secretary-General stressed that the military gains of the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM were fragile and that the humanitarian situation in Somalia was dire. Somalia was in urgent need of attention and help from the international community to set the country on a more promising course.

Mr. Mohamed stressed that the five main priorities of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia were to improve security, enhance reconciliation, complete transitional tasks, including the completion of constitutional process, address humanitarian crises and promote good governance. He reiterated that, with the transitional period ending on 20 August, the Transitional Government would try to reach a consensus on the post-transitional framework through consultations with relevant partners.

Mr. Diarra briefed the Council on AMISOM operations in Somalia, reiterating that the African Union requested the Council to enhance the support package for AMISOM, funded through United Nations-assisted contributions, so as to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable support to the Mission. The African Union requested the Council to authorize naval operations off the coast of Somalia with a view to providing more direct and tangible support to AMISOM. The African Union also asked the Council to approach the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner and to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant sanctions measures related to Somalia.

Most delegations who spoke during the open debate welcomed the initiative to explore a comprehensive strategy for peace and security in Somalia and expressed their common desire to end the 20 years of instability in Somalia, which has resulted in conflicts and humanitarian disasters in Somalia and has introduced the threat of piracy and terrorism to the people of the region and beyond.

The Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/6) as the outcome of the open debate. The Council stressed the need for a comprehensive strategy to encourage the establishment of peace and stability in Somalia through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in the fields of political process, security sector building, humanitarian relief, protection of civilians, human rights, socio-economic development, counter-terrorism and combating piracy. The Council urged the transitional federal institutions to broaden and consolidate the reconciliation process, intensify efforts to complete the outstanding transitional tasks and prioritize the timely completion of the constitution and the delivery of basic services to the population and emphasized the importance of strengthening the Somali security forces, including the development of effective command and control. The Council also stressed the importance of the provision of predictable, reliable and timely resources for AMISOM in order that it may better fulfil its mandate, and noted the recommendations on Somalia of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of 15 October 2010, underlining its intention to keep the situation in Somalia under review.

On 15 March, the Security Council was briefed by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India and Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, on the work of the Committee. Ambassador Puri stressed that the Council should remain concerned about the implementation of the relevant resolutions and the humanitarian "carve-out" should be retained. Council members expressed their appreciation to the work done by the Committee and their support for the extension of humanitarian "carve-out".

On 17 March, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1972 (2011) extending the humanitarian carve-out stipulated in paragraph 5 of resolution 1916 (2010) until 18 August 2012.

Sudan

On 3 March, the Security Council was briefed by Atul Khare, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, on the security situation in Abyei and Southern Sudan. Council members issued a statement to the press (SC/10192), in which they expressed deep concern over the recent fighting in Abyei and condemned the use of violence. They urged all parties to work to reduce tensions by implementing the agreements made in Kadugli in January 2011. They underlined the urgent need for a political agreement on the status of Abyei in the framework of the ongoing discussions between the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement conducted under the leadership of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. They also condemned the renewed fighting in Jonglei and its impact on civilians, and underlined the need to prevent further clashes.

On 11 March, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Néstor Osorio, Permanent Representative of Colombia and Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, presented the 90-day report on the work of the Committee to the Security Council.

On 21 March, the Council held a private meeting and was briefed by Atul Khare, Assistant Secretary-General on Peacekeeping Operations, on the situation in the Sudan. Ambassador Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman, Permanent Representative of the Sudan, and Pagan Amum Okiech, Minister of Peace and Comprehensive Peace Agreement Implementation of the Government of Southern Sudan, also delivered statements.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 17 March, the Council held a public meeting on Afghanistan at which it was briefed by Staffan de Mistura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), on the situation in the country. Mr. Mistura called for full international support for the planned transition to Afghan responsibility and ownership of its own governance, security and development efforts and confirmed that the United Nations would continue to support the country after the transition. Ambassador Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, introduced the request submitted by his Government for a comprehensive review of UNAMA's mandate during the

transition period. Council members expressed their concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, particularly with regard to protection of civilians, underlined the importance of a transition to full Afghan responsibility and ownership and reiterated the support of the international community in ensuring the success of that process.

On 22 March, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1974 (2011) extending the mandate of UNAMA until 23 March 2012.

Lebanon

On 29 March, the Council was briefed by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael Williams, on the fifteenth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2011/91) and by Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on the work of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Mr. Williams reported that the situation along the Blue Line remained generally stable and that the ceasefire continued to hold. He expressed his concern about the continuing high number of violations of resolution 1701 (2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty, and urged the parties to ensure full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

Council members commended the work of the Special Coordinator and UNIFIL and reiterated the importance of, and their support for, the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

Europe

Cyprus

On 15 March, the Security Council held consultations of the whole and was briefed by Alexander Downer, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Cyprus, on the status of the negotiations in Cyprus. Council members welcomed the engagement of the Secretary-General and the efforts of his Special Adviser in pushing forward the negotiations, and called upon the leaders of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to intensify the momentum of negotiations.

Middle East
The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 22 March, the Council was briefed by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. He reiterated the urgency to break the current impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and urged the parties to demonstrate leadership and go back to negotiating the final status issues towards implementing the two-state solution. He expressed concern about the increase in violent incidents and tensions on the ground and called on all parties to exercise restraint and to respect international humanitarian law. He condemned the murder of five members of an Israeli family that took place at the settlement of Itamar in the occupied West Bank, while recalling the United Nations position that any settlement activity by

Israel in the occupied territory is illegal under international law and detrimental to efforts to resume negotiations and achieve the two-state solution.

In the consultations of the whole that followed, Council members expressed their concern over the current impasse in the peace process and called on the parties to rapidly resume direct negotiations. In this regard, some Council members stressed the importance of the efforts made by the Quartet towards that goal. Most Council members expressed their concern at the increase in violence and tensions during the reporting period and called for peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts. Council members expressed concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and some reiterated their calls for Israel to end all settlement activities.

Thematic issues

Non-proliferation/Islamic Republic of Iran

On 22 March, the Council held a public meeting and heard a briefing from Ambassador Néstor Osorio, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and Permanent Representative of Colombia, on the work of the Committee from 10 December 2010 to 22 March 2011. Council members commended the efforts of the Committee in carrying out its mandate and underscored their commitment to a comprehensive and long-term solution of the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations.

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 23 March, the Security Council held a public meeting on post-conflict peacebuilding and considered the fourth annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission. Ambassador Peter Wittig, former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Germany, presented the report. Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana, the current Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Rwanda, also made a statement.

Council members welcomed the report and expressed their appreciation to the Peacebuilding Commission and its country-specific configurations for their work. Council members recognized the role played by the Commission in assisting countries emerging from conflicts in consolidating peace and achieving sustainable development. The Council reiterated the importance of national ownership and priorities of peacebuilding efforts. Council members stressed the need for a more coherent and integrated peacebuilding strategy and encouraged the Commission to focus on its impact on the ground, align relevant actors in the field behind national peacebuilding priorities, improve its working methods and enhance its partnership with all relevant actors in peacebuilding, including the principal organs of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. The Council reaffirmed its support to strengthening interaction and cooperation with the Commission.

Other matters

Briefing by the Department of Political Affairs

On 8 March, the Security Council held consultations of the whole and heard a briefing by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, on the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. Council Members exchanged views following the briefing.

Informal interactive dialogue

An informal interactive dialogue was held on 17 March with Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, and Ms. Bience Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union, on Kenya's request that the Security Council take urgent measures to defer the proceedings of the International Criminal Court relating to Kenya as contained in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Kenya dated 4 March 2011 (S/2011/116).